

8. In regard to the early completion of the road between the 6th mile of the M. C. Road and the 6th mile of the Trivandrum-Quilon road, an estimate for the work amounting to Rs. 28,820 has already been sanctioned. The only reason why it has not been taken up is that there are more urgent demands on the services of the department.

76. Medical relief.

MR. KORA OUSEPH (*Member, Kottayam taluk, Group II*) said that compared with Baroda, Travancore had too few hospitals and dispensaries and too few midwives. The amount spent by the Government in this direction did not work up even to half a chuckram per head of population. More hospitals and dispensaries should therefore be established. Where there were no hospitals or dispensaries, *Ayurvedic Vaidyasalas* with dispensing and in-patient wards should be established. They should be conducted by the Government like the hospitals and the *Vaidyans* paid at least Rs. 30 per mensem as salary. The *Ayurveda* system had been given special facilities in Madras and Cochin and it was necessary that Travancore also should progress in this matter. They should allow at least a fourth of the amount annually spent on allopathic medical institutions for *Ayurvedic* institutions. The development of the Trivandrum *Ayurveda* College was also necessary. It should be located in a better place and should have attached to it a pharmacy, an in-patient ward and a herbarium. These were necessary to give a course of practical training to the students. Similarly, there should be *Ayurveda* schools all over the State.

Lastly, he urged the necessity for opening an *Ayurveda* college somewhere in North Travancore. Such an institution would, in addition to its usefulness as a medical institution, to some extent find occupation for a large number of educated youths in Travancore who had practically no means of livelihood.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Korah Ouseph, I notice that you have very thoughtfully printed your representation. If you will be so kind as to hand me a copy, I will carefully read it and consider your suggestions when any question on *Ayurveda* is taken up.

77. Reform of the *Ayurveda* Department and encouragement of *Ezhavas*.

MR. N. KUNJURAMAN VAIDYAN (*Member, Nominated*) premised by saying that the *Ayurveda* system of treatment was the best suited to the climatic conditions of India and that 90 per cent. of the population followed that system of treatment with complete faith in its efficacy. He also referred to the popularity of the *Ayurvedic* medical preparations and to the success which some of those who received instruction in the Travancore *Ayurveda* College received in foreign lands such as Madras and Ceylon. For the development of such a system in Travancore certain facilities were necessary.

The grants now given were too low for the status of the *vaidyans* and it was necessary to grade the *vaidyasalas* into four and the *vaidyans* given Rs. 25, Rs. 35, Rs. 40 and Rs. 50 respectively as grants. Each *vaidyasala* should have the required medicines and the *vaidyans* should have examination qualifications or be men of established reputation in the profession. It was also necessary to enhance the grants to *Ayurveda* schools at least to Rs. 15 for each class. The enhancement of the pay of all the officers in the *Ayurveda* Department was equally necessary, and this should particularly be done as regards the teachers.

Secondly, there should be more Inspectors of *Vaidyasalas* as one Inspector cannot be expected to tour throughout Travancore and inspect the institutions properly.

Thirdly, the pupils in the *Ayurveda* College and Schools received only theoretical instruction. This was hardly sufficient for a practitioner. An *Ayurveda* physician skilled in the preparation of medicines should be appointed to demonstrate the methods to the pupils. There should also be, attached to the college, a hospital and a herbarium for giving the students a practical course of instruction.

Then, in regard to the further popularisation of the system, it was considered necessary to induce rich *jenmies*, popular representatives and municipalities to make

donations. Ayurveda hospitals should be established in important places such as Quilon, Kottayam, and Alleppey; and in cases where the people provided the facilities for starting such hospitals, they should be adequately encouraged.

Fifthly, only *vaidyans* with examination qualifications or approved *vaidyans* should be allowed to practise or supply medicines to the public. To bring this into force, it was necessary to introduce a system of licenses under which quacks could be effectively excluded. A board of four experts constituted for the purpose must certify whether a person might vend medicines or practise as a *vaidyan*.

To encourage the system in Travancore and to facilitate the sale of the locally manufactured medicines, the Member suggested the imposition of duty on imported *Ayurvedic* medicines.

The board suggested above should be constituted of four experts. They should be responsible for the issue of licenses to practitioners, for the publication of manuscripts relating to *Ayurveda* and for the publication of text-books for the pupils of the Ayurveda College and Schools. A monthly magazine on *Ayurveda* should also be published. This, it was suggested, would also be a source of income.

To meet the expenses in connection with the proposals, the income from the herbarium, licenses, import duty, pharmacy, publications, etc., would be found sufficient. The expenditure on the allopathic institutions should be reduced by 25 per cent. and that amount should be diverted to the development of *Ayurveda Vaidyasalas*.

Lastly, he requested that the Ezhavas should receive adequate encouragement in the Ayurveda Department in consideration of the fact that in former times the Ezhavas were hereditary *Ayurvedic* physicians and that they were not represented in the department at present.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Kunjuraman Vaidyan, *Ayurveda* has only comparatively recently had its rebirth in the State as an official department. After considering all your representations, I do not think it is advisable at present to force it into a precocious growth; its growth should be natural, else it would outgrow its normal strength.

2. As you are aware, there is a definite programme of developing the department and I think that programme is an excellent one. I was glad to note your remarks upon the wonderful advance and success some of the *Ayurveda* physicians who worked in our institutions here have secured by transferring their activities to Madura, Ceylon or elsewhere. It pleases the Government immensely to see that Travancore *vaidyans* are prospering and establishing themselves abroad and reflecting honour on the *vaidyans* of Travancore. May there be many more like them!

78. Popularisation of Ayurveda.

Mr. S. KRISHNAN ASAN (*Member, Nominated*) represented that, though in reply to his representation at the twentieth session of the Assembly, the Dewan observed that several valuable suggestions for the improvement of the Ayurveda College had been made by him, no action had yet been taken to give effect to them.

The students trained in and sent out of the Ayurveda College were not fully qualified to do their duties properly. Most of the works on *Ayurveda* were in the Sanskrit language; and owing to the fact that pupils who had no knowledge of Sanskrit were admitted at the instance of the present Director of Ayurveda, they were unable fully to assimilate the instruction imparted in the institution. While their knowledge of theory was thus rendered defective, the absence of a herbarium where pupils can study the various medicinal herbs, plants, etc., the lack of facilities to obtain a practical knowledge of the preparation of oils, *lehyams*, etc., the want of opportunities for study in clinics by the observation of cases, and their inability to diagnose cases and observe the methods of treatment adopted by experienced *vaidyans*, combined to make the certificate-holders ill-equipped for practice. The risks attendant upon the staffing of *vaidyasalas* by such men were heavy and numerous inasmuch as the health and life of people were placed in their hands.